

# Employee Hygiene

## Wisconsin Food Code Fact Sheet #6

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### **The Importance of Proper Hygiene**

Employees are the most important link in preventing foodborne illness. Good personal hygiene, including proper and frequent hand-washing, is one of the best ways to prevent foodborne illness.

### **Hand-washing**

Always make sure that hands are washed and thoroughly dried before starting work; between tasks; before working with food products, equipment, utensils and linens; and after using the restroom, coughing, sneezing, eating, drinking or smoking. Correct hand-washing includes cleaning the backs of hands, palms, and forearms, between fingers and under the fingernails using warm water, soap and a fingernail brush.

### **Cuts, Wounds and Sores**

Any cuts, wounds or open sores on the hands and arms must be completely covered by a waterproof bandage. Wear single-use gloves over any bandages on the hands and fingers.



### **Hair Restraints**

Food employees are required to wear hair restraints such as hairnets, hats, scarves, or beard nets that are effective in keeping their hair in control. This does not apply to counter staff

who serve only drinks or wrapped food products, and wait staff or hostesses/hosts if they present a minimal risk of contamination.

### **Proper Work Clothing**

All employees must wear clean outer clothing to prevent contamination of food, equipment, utensils, linens, single-service and single-use articles.

Personal clothing and other personal items must be kept away from food-handling and storage areas. Employers must provide adequate storage areas for employee's personal belongings. If employees routinely change clothing at the establishment, a room or area must be designated and used for that purpose. Such changing areas must be separate from food, clean equipment and linen.

### **Wearing of Jewelry**

Jewelry should be limited to plain-banded rings only. Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and other jewelry should not be worn when preparing or serving food (excluding medical alert jewelry).

### **Eating, Drinking & Using Tobacco**

All employees must eat, drink or use tobacco only in designated areas where contamination to food, equipment, utensils and other materials cannot occur.